

*Remarks of
Teachers from the
West Hartford Public School System*

**Before the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24—AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

February 21, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee.

We are teachers from the West Hartford Public Schools. We would like to comment on certain key points in the Governor's proposal.

- Have you considered the high standards that teachers meet to maintain their professional status?
 - State of Connecticut teachers are required to earn a Master's Degree within a specified amount of time.
 - The State of Connecticut has established the TEAM/ beginning teacher evaluation program already in place as an effective and required program.
 - National Board Certification has been the acknowledged standard for granting Connecticut certification to out-of-state educators.
 - This standard for out-of-state teachers, along with the Master's Degree and the TEAM evaluation program for in-state teachers has helped safeguard the quality of education for students in Connecticut.
- We are concerned about the dismantling of the current teacher evaluation and certification system, as well as elimination of the current Master's Degree requirement.
 - How can the elimination of the Master's Degree requirement help ensure a better education standard for Connecticut students?
 - Tuition dollars fund our state universities. Teacher education programs provide a substantial percentage of those tuition dollars. Under SB 24, incentives to enter teacher certification programs and Master of Education programs would be severely compromised.
- Currently, we have a rigorous, objective basis for teacher evaluation. The new proposal is more subjective because it is dependent on one person (the principal) and test scores.
- Teachers should maintain the statutory right to serve on Professional Development Committees and provide active input in any process for creating teacher evaluation procedures.

We would like to strongly urge the committee to consider the CEA Positive School Reform Plan in revising the Governor's proposal for SB 24.